



**International
Architectural
Design
Competition
for the**

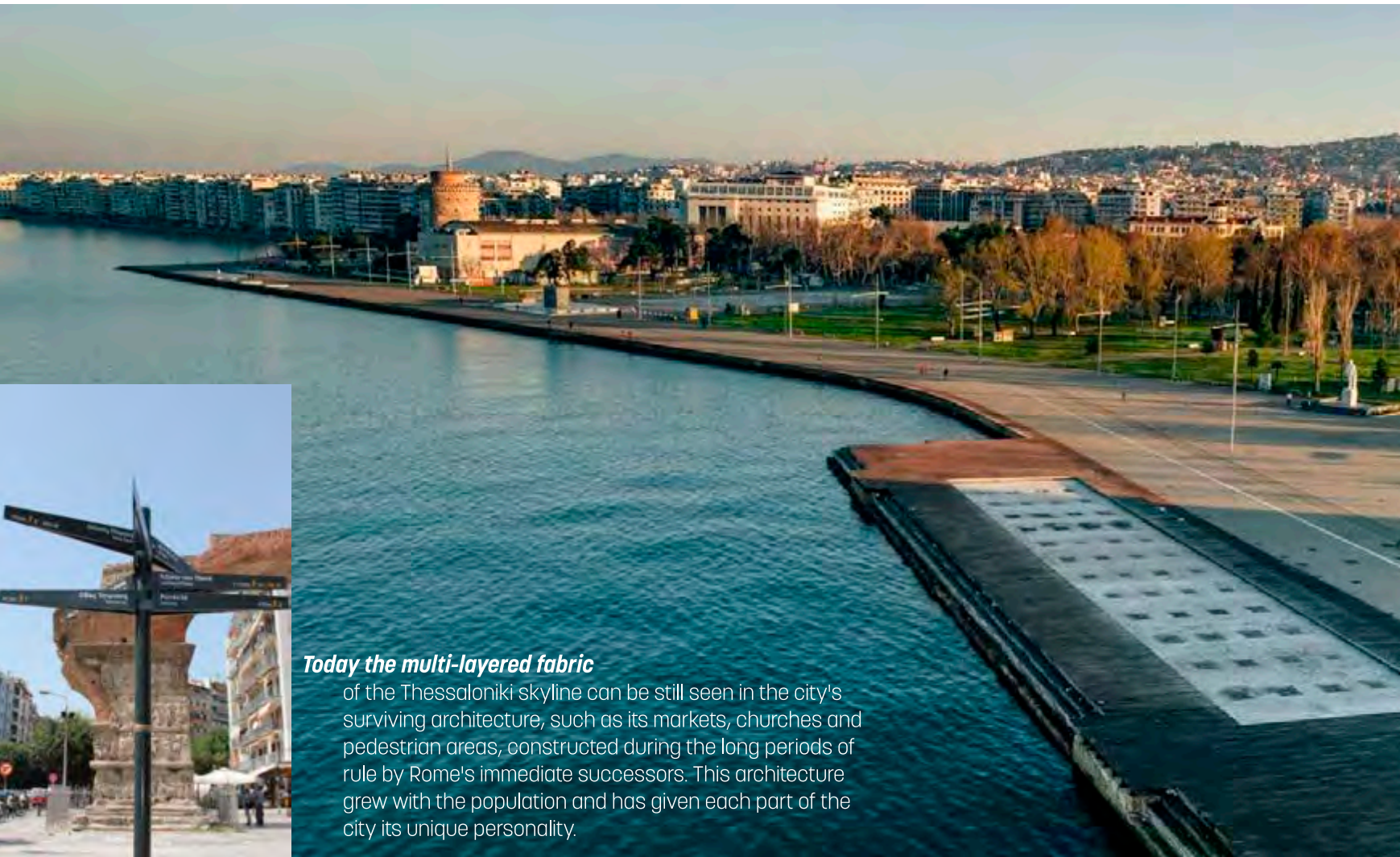
Thessaloniki ConfEX Park

TIF-HELEXPO S.A.

Thessaloniki

[40.6401° N, 22.9444° E]

Thessaloniki has been a hub for grand architectural constructs which rendered the city the cultural and commercial crux of the entire area. The long history of the city is rooted in the foundations laid by previous generations.



Today the multi-layered fabric

of the Thessaloniki skyline can be still seen in the city's surviving architecture, such as its markets, churches and pedestrian areas, constructed during the long periods of rule by Rome's immediate successors. This architecture grew with the population and has given each part of the city its unique personality.

Through destruction

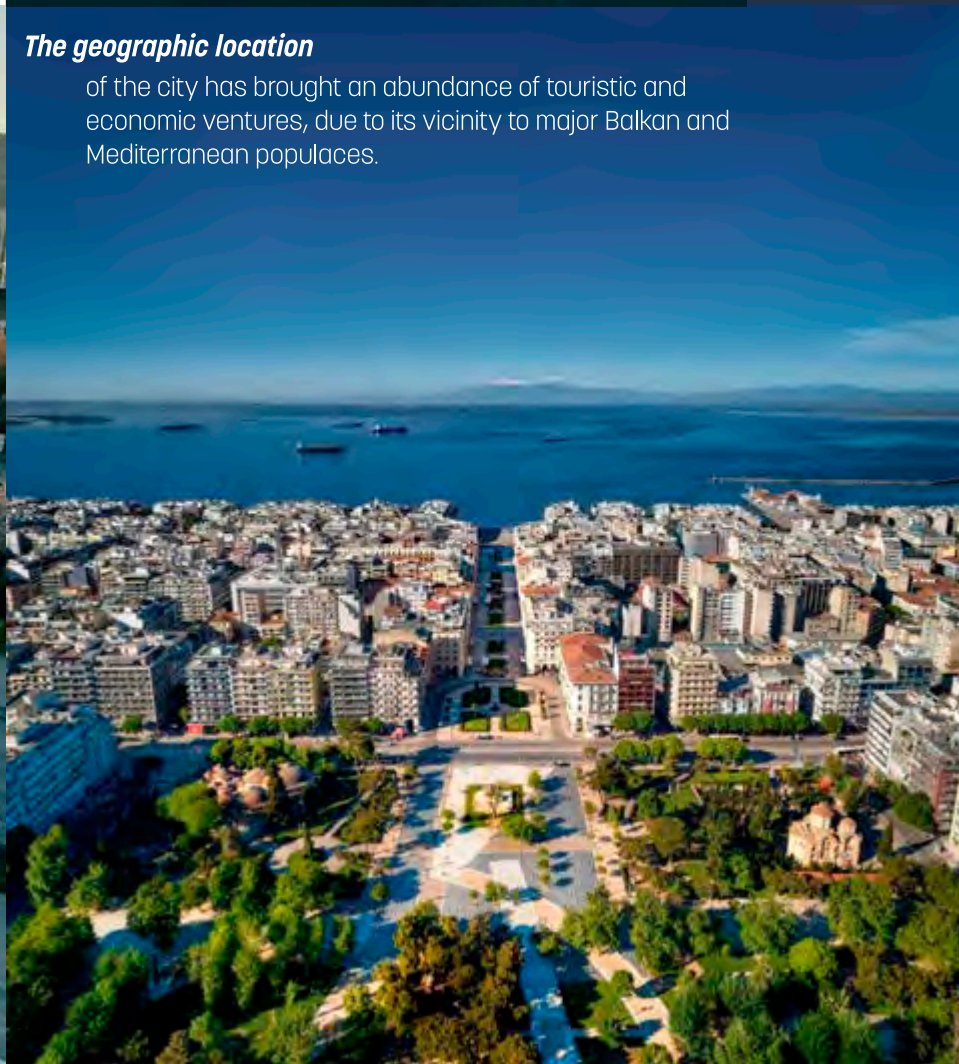
and upheaval, the city has always had the need for new architecture, building from the past to give to the future. Through this city planning, Thessaloniki has thrived and is now one of the major cities of the entire region and has become internationally renowned.





The geographic location

of the city has brought an abundance of touristic and economic ventures, due to its vicinity to major Balkan and Mediterranean populaces.



However, the city faces

certain problems, such as traffic and noise pollution, especially on its main roads. The Thessaloniki Metro project is designed to improve traffic conditions and, most importantly, improve the accessibility of TIF- HELEXPO fairgrounds with two metro stations, one on each side.



T.I.F. History & Architecture

Founded in 1926

by Nikolaos Germanos, TIF-HELEXPO has grown from humble beginnings into an international entity. Welcoming millions of visitors every year from the 1960s onwards, it has grown exponentially, with over fifteen (15) international trade fairs in Greece at present. However, during World War II and the Greek Civil War, all operations ceased.



These activities

have enhanced TIF- HELEXPO's importance in recent times and underscore its influence on the cultivation of business connections throughout the world. Thessaloniki has had a long history in the arts of trade and politics - and TIF-Helexpo is continuing this tradition.

Due to the site's prominence

in the heart of the city, it is restricted in expanding outwards and must instead utilise the space more efficiently, while effectively displaying the locale's famous existing architecture. TIF- HELEXPO's building complex is home to a varied selection of exhibition facilities, shops and even a museum and a sports arena. On the southern end of the fairgrounds, visitors encounter 'Ioannis Vellidis' Congress Center, constructed in 1994 with a total building area of 6.300 sq.m., which hosts various events throughout the year in addition to exhibition operations. The area along Aggelaki Street is occupied by various businesses leasing buildings from TIF-HELEXPO. The fairgrounds are also home to the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art and 'Alexandreion' Athletic Melathron of Thessaloniki, which houses training facilities, offices of various sports federations and a basketball court.

The fairgrounds

were developed over four phases, beginning in the 1950s and ending in the early 21st century. All the buildings constructed until the 1960s distinctly express the modernist movement at the time, while newer constructions served more the need for convenience and space, with no regard, whatsoever, to form or design, to the extent of having problems integrating with the rest of the fairgrounds.



Surroundings



The Direct Impact Zone

of the competition site is situated in the heart of Thessaloniki and is bounded between the central and south-eastern part of the city. The land uses and functions in the Direct Impact Zone are mostly of hyperlocal interest, while residential uses are almost absent. It includes two University Campuses, two major museums, the 3rd Army Corps military camp, the Town Hall, park areas, and part of the city's main seafront to the southeast or towards the White Tower.

Thessaloniki City Hall

completed in 2009, was designed by the architects Anastasios and Dimitrios Mpiris. It has a total surface of 15,300 sq.m. (total building area) and an underground parking of 39,960 sq.m. In the center of the complex, there is an open space with free access to the public. The main characteristic of the building is the fair-faced concrete and stone cladding (Photo 1).

The YMCA Building

is located in YMCA Square, designed by architect Marinos Delladetsimas and completed in 1934, with a total surface of 7,500 sq.m. It is a mix of historical Neo-classical and Byzantine architecture (Photo 2).

The Archaeological Museum

of Thessaloniki was constructed in 1962 by architect Patroklos Karantinos and is considered a representative example of Modernism in Greece. The Exhibition area is separated from the Administration area and the building has two atriums, providing sunlight to the exhibition halls. The facades of the building are mostly covered by glass blocks. The extension of the Museum to the south-east part of the lot was designed by architect Alexandros Vogiatzis in 1982, and the final modifications of the building, made in 2001, were designed by architects Nikos Fidikakis and Georgios Albanis (Photo 3).

The 3rd Army Corps

headquarters building was designed and built by Italian architect Vitaliano Poselli in 1890. It is a historical and remarkable landmark of the city, first used by the Turkish army and, since 1912, belonging to the Greek army. (Photo 4).



1



The Museum of Byzantine Culture

built in 1994, was designed by architect and artist Kyriakos Krokos. The building was declared as a historical listed monument and a work of art in 2001. It was also declared as a remarkable example of a large public building. The Museum's total floor area is 11,500 sq.m. and it was built on a lot of 15,439 sq.m. The building has a big atrium and a large circular gallery, and its construction is based on reinforced concrete and bricks (Photo 5).



The Royal Theatre of Thessaloniki

is located on the seafront of Thessaloniki, and belongs to the National Theatre of Northern Greece. Built in 1940, it was designed by architect and urban planner Konstantinos Doxiadis. Many modifications were made to the building in 1986 for the conduction of the 2nd Biennale of New European and Mediterranean Artists.

The zone is an area of social facilities

and public spaces that interrupts the continuity of the city. The main road network, as it is implemented, results in the segmentation of this wider zone, creating significant discontinuities and discouraging the circulation of pedestrians and bicycles.

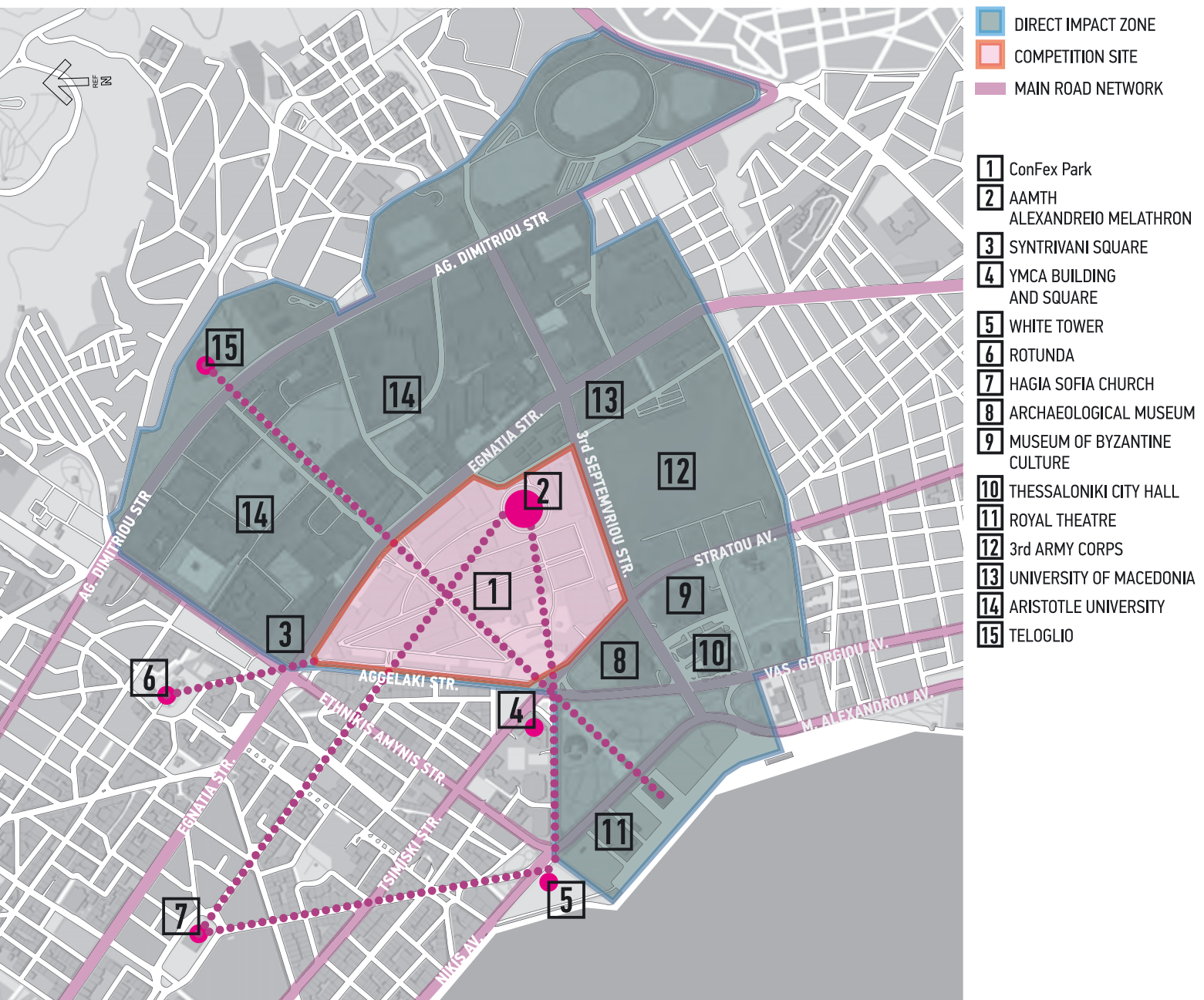


Master Plan

In 2017 TIF-HELEXP0 made the strategic decision to redevelop the whole Fairgrounds area and proceeded with designing the Master Plan for the site. This Master Plan aims to allow exhibitions more freedom and space for innovation while being mutually beneficial to the surrounding institutions. The regulations that have been put forth must be adhered to for the benefit of the local area, both environmentally and culturally.

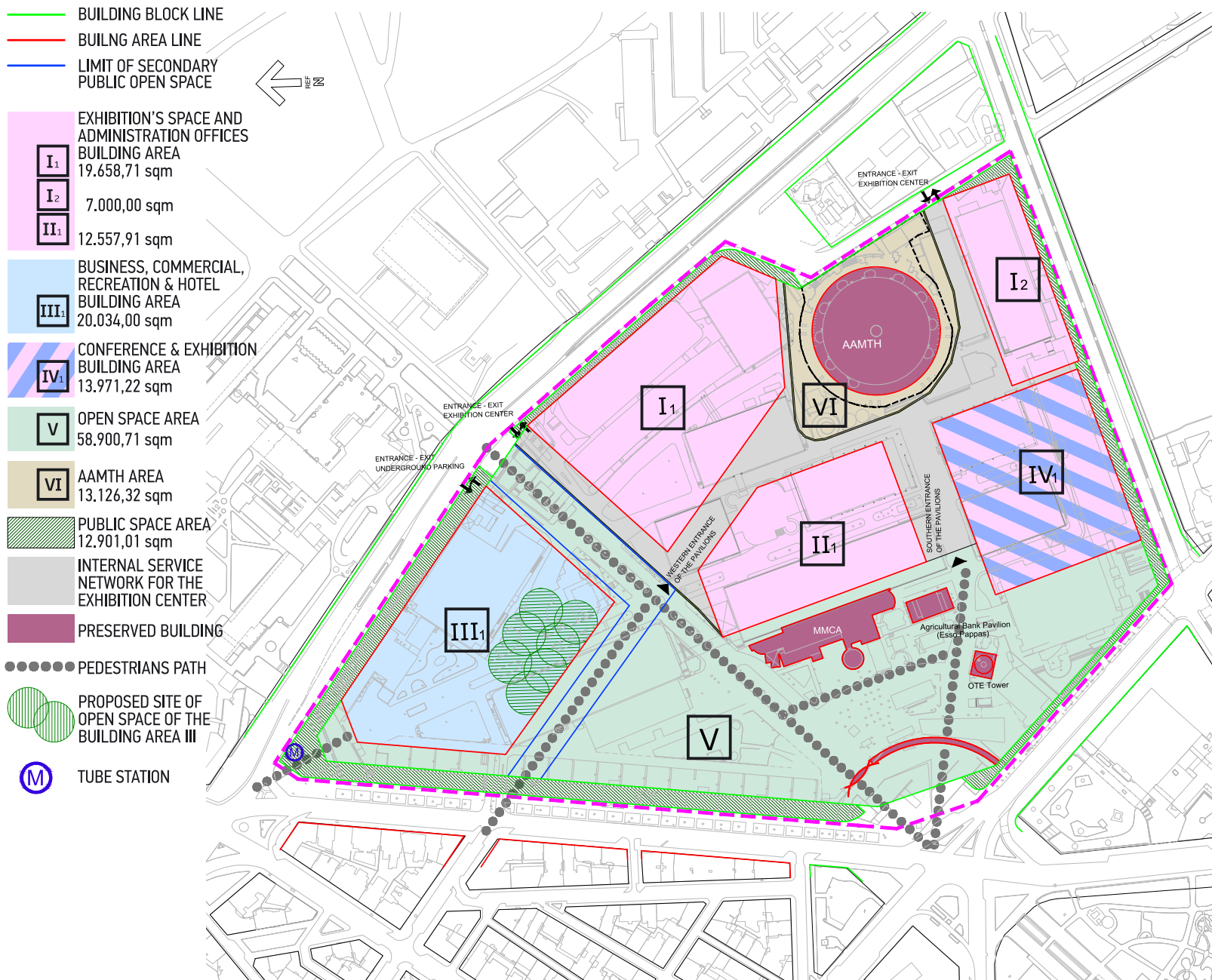
The urban analysis

identifies the axes and reference points of the urban tissue, as it has taken shape over the course of the last 100 years, its discontinuity between the old city to the west and the new city to the east, both with dense construction, the existing landmarks, the buildings of culture and administration of supralocal character, and the public open spaces network.



Within the Master Plan area,

the intervention area consists of one building block, with an area of 161,769.04 sq.m., divided into 6 sectors regarding the land uses and volume. The Master Plan in addition to the distribution of land uses noted above, defines the Maximum allowed Building Area of 96,000 sq.m., the maximum allowable Total Building Floor Area per sector and the maximum permitted height of buildings by sector and use. The open space of the ConfEx Park includes buildings, such as the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, the OTE Tower, the YMCA Arch, the building of the Agricultural Bank Pavilion and the AAMTH, to be preserved and integrated with the environment. For the internal traffic and logistics within sections of the Exhibition Center, one vehicle entrance - exit is defined on Egnatia Street and one on the extension of Lambraki Street. Underground parking is recommended with parking lots distributed around the fairground area for external and internal use.



Project Challenges & Guidelines

Through its decision

to proceed with the major redevelopment of the whole property by designing and constructing a sustainable, environmentally friendly and state-of-the-art ConfEx Centre, together with a new urban Park, TIF-HELEXPO S.A. is envisioning a project that will dominate the downtown area of the city of Thessaloniki. The ConfEx Park is expected to play a significant role in the economy of the city by contributing to its transformation into an important international business and tourist destination.

The project goal

is the cost-effective design of a ConfEx Centre to the highest-standards, that will optimize the connection between buildings layout and associated activities within the site. The project also aims to further enhance the local, regional and international role of TIF-HELEXPO and create a new iconic landmark for the city that will also act as a milestone in the business history of the broader region, respecting the environment and the principles of sustainable development.

The company


is seeking the most creative and innovative proposal, that will best highlight the significance, value, and potential of the ConfEx Centre and its public open space, and transform the area into an international attraction as well as a citizen-centered space. The whole project and especially the design of building areas III and IV should be of high architectural importance in order for new landmarks in the metropolitan area of Thessaloniki to be formed, leaving a mark of exemplary architecture in the city for the next decades.

General Design Guidelines.

The design layout shall be open to the public, accessible for all and with functional linkages between buildings as well as meaningful connections with the urban tissue. Bioclimatic design and environmentally friendly practices according to the local climate are strongly encouraged. The boundaries of the development site need to offer unobstructed views and connection pathways between the ConfEx Park and the surrounding public space. Boundary treatment needs to ensure site access control and nighttime security as well, in order for basic targets of the whole project to be met.

Architectural Design Guidelines.

It is essential to achieve high-end architecture, combined with functionality and aesthetics of the buildings that aspire to become the new landmarks of the city center. There is artistic license regarding the design and the layout of the buildings, as they are not restricted to a specific concept. Competitors are called to seek out the best balance between the diversity of architectural elements expressing different uses and/or symbolic aspects within the ConfEx Park, and the necessity to create a cohesive complex which will constitute an important landmark as a whole. The identity of each sector and features of individual buildings shall be considered. The building lines defined in the Master Plan should be respected; however, competitors are free to decrease the lot coverage ratio in order to gain extra open space. The building's design should be based on bioclimatic design principles, taking into consideration the local weather and climate conditions, the solar path throughout the year and orientation of the buildings, the direction of the winds as well as the topography of the site (gradient etc).



Competitors should propose innovative ideas regarding the envelope of the buildings, incorporating climate-responsive facades, which will achieve thermal comfort inside the building and will incorporate energy saving techniques. Building volumes within the maximum allowed building footprint and height will be freely treated either as a whole or partially. Basement floor plans for any ancillary uses, such as underground parking, electromechanical facilities, restrooms, storage rooms etc., are not required in this phase. Competitors should provide basement floor plans only for main uses. None of the existing buildings located within the building lines demarcated in the Master Plan is considered to be preserved. However, if any of the above existing buildings (or parts of them) is thought by the Competitors to be of high architectural importance, it is acceptable to be incorporated in the design, providing the proposal justifies that the building can serve the uses required per area. In any other case, the proposal to demolish them is equally acceptable.

Landscape Design Guidelines.

Placing emphasis on the pedestrian and bicycle network within the development site and in conjunction with the urban tissue, the landscape design will introduce an attractive and sustainable environment for citizens, convention center visitors and tourists year round. The park area is intended to work as a buffer zone between the buildings of the complex and the surroundings as well as a relaxation and activities hub for the ConfEx Center facilities. Conflicting issues between free access for the public and security restrictions required for the temporary events/exhibition in exclusive use areas shall be effectively addressed.

Environmental Design Guidelines.

The ConfEx Park should reach an exemplary level of environmental design. An environmentally friendly approach is the main concept of the entire project and focuses on specific key points, which mainly comprise sustainability of construction works and materials, low emissions, circular economy and efficient thermal comfort. Project buildings should be able to offset their carbon footprint and be near zero-energy buildings. The park and the buildings should ensure regeneration through environmental improvement with regards to energy and air quality as well as local biodiversity. The whole area should be designed according to bioclimatic design principles to improve the microclimatic conditions of the area. It is strongly encouraged to use natural resources (solar, wind, geothermal energy) to cover the energy needs of ConfEx Park to a great extent. Electric energy consumption of the exhibition and conference buildings, should be reduced to a minimum, based on renewable energy sources production and energy storage on site; Any asphalt paving or the use of concrete as a coating material on surfaces that do not serve the necessary operational needs of the project is not recommended. The design should provide the maximum possible utilization of rainwater in the irrigation of green spaces. The design of the ConfEx Park should ensure an adequate level of flood protection, considering the morphological and hydrographic conditions of the site and surrounding area. Appropriate measures should be incorporated in the design to secure noise protection of the surrounding area.

Regulations & Procedures

Competition Type and Procedure

The "INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE THESSALONIKI CONFEX PARK" is an international, one stage architectural design project Competition conducted in a restricted procedure. The Competition will be preceded by the Prequalification. The Prequalification is a selection process that aims at selecting the Applicants, who are most capable of providing successful solutions for the specific complex project. The Prequalification is a preliminary step of the Competition, which is organized in one stage. The procedure will be organized in the following phases:

- the Prequalification
- the Design Competition during which design proposals will be submitted anonymously.

During the Prequalification, the Jury will shortlist fifteen (15) Applicants from the Applications received, based on predefined criteria. The Prequalification concerns:

- a) the fulfillment of formal requirements regarding legal, regulatory, technical and professional capacities of the Applicants, which will be checked by the Technical Committee;
- b) the evaluation of the Applicants' List of Works and Design Team composition; and
- c) the evaluation of reference projects regarding their architectural quality, creativity and innovation.

The Jury shall evaluate points **b** and **c** above. At the end of the Prequalification, the selected Applicants, who will be referred to as "Competitors", will be entitled to participate in the Design Competition. All Design entries will be presented to the Jury responsible for evaluating and ranking them and determining the winning entry.

The organizer requests that all applicants participate by forming a multidisciplinary design team that clearly demonstrates its capacity to produce an innovative, high quality design that constitutes a landmark and aspires to become an architectural milestone for urban renewal. The design team must consist of at least one landscape architect and one architect with a minimum of five years of experience in the design of new buildings. The person leading the design team, however, must be an architect. The design team will be responsible for the design of the competition and the completion of the project if awarded the first prize. It is recommended to include a structural engineer, a sustainability specialist or persons from additional disciplines in the team, due to the complexity of the competition. Any natural person who is a member of the design team may participate in only one team and application and/or joint application. Any change to the design team after the submission of the applications and during the design competition may be justified only for reasons beyond the applicant's control and must not alter the competencies and criteria of the design team's composition. However, an expansion of the design team after the submission of the applications and during the design competition is authorized without the organizer's permission.

The competition shall be conducted according to UNESCO/UIA international competitions and town planning regulations which means that all regulations and guidelines, as well as jury member selection, conform to the architectural and planning competition requirements of the UIA. UIA endorsement is pending. The competition brief and appendices shall be submitted to UIA International Competitions Commission (ICC) for approval. The Competition Regulations have been verified by the UIA International Competition Commission.

All documents and information necessary for the competition are available on the website of the competition, namely at the following address:

<https://www.thessaloniki-confexpark.gr>.

This shall be the only communication channel between the organizer/management committee and the applicants/competitors.

Timetable

The key dates of the Competition are as follows

PREQUALIFICATION

Sep 29, 2020	Prequalification Launch - registration opening
Nov 13, 2020	Application Submission Deadline (online at the website)
Dec 10, 2020	Announcement of Selection of 15 Competitors(at the latest)
Jan 22,2021	Evidence Submission Deadline

DESIGN COMPETITION

Feb 1, 2021	Competition Starts
May 31, 2021	Submission Deadline (entries to be postmarked by:)
Jul 1, 2021	Winners announced

The Jury

Jury Members



JOAN BUSQUETS
Prof., Urban Planner
& Architect, Chair (Spain)



FARSHID MOUSSAVI
Prof., Architect (Great Britain)



RENA SAKELLARIDOU
Prof., Architect (Greece)



SIMON EWINGS
Architect (Norway)



SAMULI MIETTINEN
Architect, UIA Representative
(Finland)



ARETI MARKOPOULOU
PhD, Architect (Greece)



IRENE DJAO-RAKITINE
Landscape Architect
(France)



DIMITRIOS KERKENTZES
Msc, BIE Secretary general
(Great Britain)



KYRIAKOS POZRIKIDIS
PhD, CEO TIF-HELEXPO S.A.
(Greece)



FANI VAVILI
Prof., Architect (Greece)



SIMON HARTMANN
Prof., Architect,
UIA Representative
(Switzerland)



DANIEL FÜGENSCHUH
Architect, (Austria)

Professional Advisor

- VASILIKI AGORASTIDOU, Architect (Greece)

Experts

- THOMAS GLAWA, Exhibition Expert (Germany)
- GEORGIOS HATZOPOULOS, Environmental Expert (Greece)
- KOSTAS TSAVDARIDIS, Prof., Structural Expert (Greece)

Management Committee:

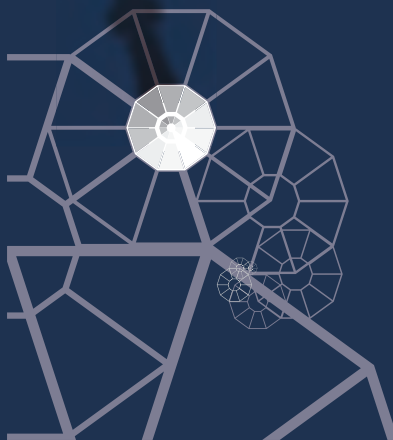
- VASILIKI AGORASTIDOU, Architect, Professional Advisor
- ALEXIS TSAXIRLIS, Deputy General Manager, TIF- HELEXPO S.A.
- ENNIE DODOU, Lawyer, LLM, ADR, TIF- HELEXPO S.A. Legal Dpt.
- VIRGINIA ARVANITIDOU, Finance Director, TIF-HELEXPO S.A.

Technical Committee:

- DIMITRIS TAMPAKIS, Electrical Engineer, PhD, Project Manager
- DIMITRIS DOUMAS, Architect, Urban planner, Project Consultant
- MANOLIS BELIMPASAKIS, Civil Engineer, Project Consultant
- ARIS GRAMMENOS, Electrical Engineer, Technical Director TIF-HELEXPO S.A.
- PANTELIS IOANNIDIS, Civil Engineer TIF- HELEXPO S.A.
- DIMITRIS KOURKOURIDIS, Urban Planner, Project Officer
- MASEN VASILIKI, Architect
- KARAMITROU VASILIKI, Architect
- GEORGIA ZOI, Lawyer

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www.thessaloniki-confexpark.gr

info@thessaloniki-confexpark.gr
T: +30 2310 291 146

TIF HELEXPO SA
Thessaloniki International
Exhibition & Congress Centre

154 Egnatia Street
546 36 THESSALONIKI

T: +30 2310 291 111
F: +30 2310 284 732

www.helexpo.gr